

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: January 28, 2003***

U.S. DROUGHT OUTLOOK

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

CPC issues a national Drought Outlook for the remaining part of the month of issue plus the next three months.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The product is intended for use in seasonal water resource planning.

3. Audience:

The audience is primarily decision makers in agricultural, water supply, and fire weather management.

4. Presentation Format:

CPC presents the outlooks in red book graphic over AWIPS. CPC also posts graphics on the CPC web site.

5. Feedback Method:

E-mail both Robert.Leffler@noaa.gov and Barbara.Mayes@noaa.gov.

Part 2 - Technical

1. Format and Science Basis:

CPC depicts general large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by numerous indicators, including short and long range statistical and dynamic forecasts. CPC indicates predicted trends for ongoing drought areas depicted in the U.S. Drought Monitor as well as possible areas of new droughts that may develop. CPC uses 5 categories to depict expected drought conditions.

- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely
- No Drought expected.

The latest Drought Outlook is at

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html.

2. **Availability:**

These are scheduled products. CPC issues these outlooks once a month on the third Thursday of the month around 3:00 p.m. Eastern local time. CPC may issue updates as needed, typically near the end of the month. They will issue corrections as needed. The outlook is issued on NWS dissemination systems under the following product IDs:

WMO heading - PMNV88 KWNC

AWIPS ID - RBGDRK

They are also issued on the CPC web site at the URL listed in section a.

3. **Additional Information:**

- Valid Time: The is valid for the remaining part of the issuance month plus the next three months.
- Product Expiration Time: The discussion expires with the issuance of the next outlook..
- Creation Software: CPC uses the General Meteorological Package (GEMPAK) software as an input into National Center Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (NAWIPS).